

Four Corners Air Quality Task Force Meeting
Wednesday May 9, 2007
Farmington, New Mexico

Attendees: see separate list on Meetings page

PLENARY SESSION

Welcome

Rebecca Reynolds, facilitator and project manager, welcomed the group and briefly reviewed the agenda. Then Mary Uhl, NMED, thanked everyone for their attendance, their continued contribution to the Task Force, and for their concern for air quality in the Four Corners. She then introduced the first speaker, Mark Sather, EPA Region 6.

Passive Ammonia Monitoring Briefing (see separate link to PPT)

Mark Sather, EPA Region 6, Air Quality Analysis Section

Mark gave an overview of ozone and NO_x concentrations so as to set the context for his discussion on ammonia. Mark also reminded everyone of the upcoming EPA announcement in June regarding a possible new Ozone standard.

Then he reviewed the first four months of data that have come from the new ammonia monitors in the Four Corners. Results so far indicate that ammonia levels are fairly low in the area.

Monitoring Work Group Overview (see separate links to both PPTs)

Gordon Pierce, CDPHE and Erich Fowler, DU Graduate Student

Gordon gave the group an overview of the process the monitoring group has used to develop its work for the Task Force, and then explained the various products that are now included in the Task Force Report. Erich Fowler followed with a presentation of photographs he has taken in the Four Corners recording visibility conditions.

Work Group Breakouts (5)

(See separate agendas)

The work groups met separately to discuss progress on papers and other issues. Notes from these sessions are posted on the work group pages of the website.

Return to Plenary

WORK GROUP REPORT BACKS (see work group notes as posted on the work group web pages)

Rebecca Reynolds, Facilitator

MONITORING – Terry Hertel

Definitions/Acronyms – Terry to assemble from group's input

Preface – They will edit a bit (address statistics)

Add some more graphs, specifically on Nitrogen and Sulfates (Koren & Gordon)

Data Analysis – they will beef up the visibility section

Erich & Koren will present in November

Conf Calls to be scheduled

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS – Mike George

The group worked on revisions to the existing material based on comments, and also on identifying expansions to address additional mitigation option questions. Assignments were made and product is expected in the next couple of weeks.

The group decided to prepare a summary document to include in the report that will address the following:

1. Overall summary of emissions and the relative significance of each source
2. Overview of the Cumulative Effects work group's work
 - Inventory
 - Describe analysis
3. Recommendations for future work

The November presenter will be Doug Blewitt and perhaps someone else, to be determined.

The next conf call will be on 5/25 to finalize all work.

POWER PLANTS – Mark Jones

The group started with open comments/issues, then did a review/update of the three major Power Plant projects: Desert Rock, Four Corners, and San Juan Generating Station. Industry representatives were in attendance and aided in this discussion.

The group then had a presentation on the Clean Air Mercury Rule: there are five different rules that apply to the Four Corners area. Presenters included: Mark McMillian (CDPHE); Mark Jones, NMED; and Stephen Etsitty, Director NNEPA

The group reviewed their tracking table of mitigation options and agreed that two are still outstanding and some need appendices. Drafting teams were selected and final options will be followed up on the next conf call: Wed, May 23 at 4:00 pm. The group quickly discussed reorganization of the TOC for EEREC section, to be followed up for Version 7 of the Task Force Report.

The group discussed the November presenters and agreed it would be ideal to have an industry rep and a private citizen or community group rep. Maureen Gannon (PNM) and Marilyn Brown (LWV) are two preliminary presenters. There have been a few others volunteer. We will discuss this on May 23rd call.

OTHER SOURCES - Rita Trujillo

The group reviewed the Table of Options not written and updated the rationales. New papers will be coming in two weeks, and the group drafted one on regional planning during the session. November presenters are to be determined.

No conf calls scheduled.

OIL & GAS – Jen Mattox

The group reviewed the Table of Options not written and agreed that there are three remaining that will be ready by the May 30th deadline.

Section definitions will be done by Jen.

The group reviewed the Preface, and commenters will submit by May 30.

The group then discussed some of the Mitigation Option papers that had a number of comments, and agreed that the group would like to work on them to aid in integrating the comments. They will do this on a conf call: Wed, May 16 at 3:30 pm.

November presenters will be Dave Brown (BP) and possibly a private citizen (to be determined).

The group's regular call is June 13, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

News update: WRAP Phase II O&G inventory is now available. They are doing conf calls to review it. For those interested in participating, please see the link on the oil and gas page of our website. Please note: the WRAP inventory is different from the one that was developed for the Cumulative Effects analysis for the Task Force.

Doug Blewitt from the Cumulative Effects group then presented on the inventory and subsequent analysis of oil and gas mitigations options. His PPT is available on both the Cumulative Effects and Oil and Gas web pages.

Conclusion

In closing the meeting, Rebecca asked if anyone had any comments to share. Koren indicated that some of the Task Force members are interested in starting up a multi-representational Mercury group, and requested that some time be set aside for a brief discussion on this at the August Task Force meeting. Mary Uhl added that NM already has a Mercury Action Plan group that meets regularly. Their next meeting is June 11 from 2-4 pm in Santa Fe. Please contact Mary directly if you are interested in this: mary.uhl@state.nm.us. It was suggested that a representative from this group might attend the August Task Force meeting to discuss the mercury issues.

ADJOURN: 6:00 pm